

Remarks/Arguments:

The specification has been objected to. The specification has been appropriately amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 12, 14-18, 20, 21, 23-30 and 32-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,588,346 (Smith). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as recited by claim 1 includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... said rotative axis being a non-vertical axis

It is noted that the rotative access is related to Applicant's claimed coupling and Applicant's claimed coupling is "between" the first support structure (which provides linear movement) and the second support structure (which provides linear movement). In order to assist the Examiner in understanding Applicant's claim language, a marked-up copy of Applicant's Fig. 7 is enclosed where the "non-vertical axis" is shown. Of course, this is merely an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

Applicant's representative has carefully reviewed U.S. Patent No. 4,588,346 which was cited against Applicant's claims. In U.S. Patent No. 4,588,346 the only non-vertical axis which is disclosed appears at the end of the cradle assembly 38. All of the other axes shown in U.S. Patent No. 4,588,346 are vertical axes. Thus, the rejection is improper. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The remaining independent claims, while not identical to claim 1, are also patentable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

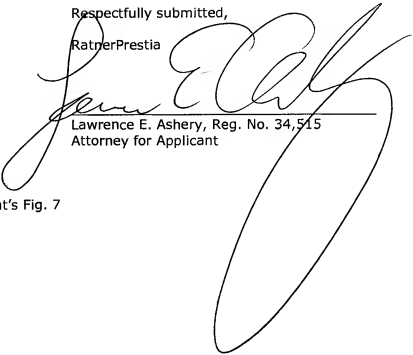
The dependent claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

Claims 3, 4 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith. These claims, however, are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

This application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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LEA/mjc

Enclosure: Marked-up Copy of Applicant's Fig. 7

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Exhibit
DO NOT
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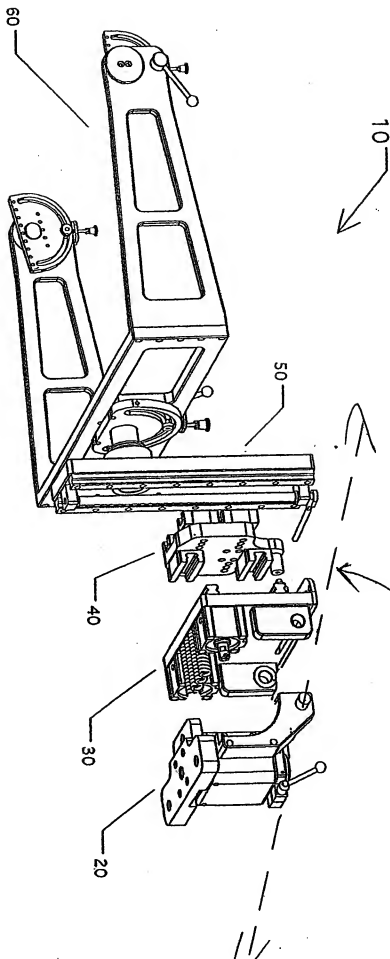


Figure 7